

amounted to 80 cents on the \$100 worth of property, without any corresponding appreciable benefit to the people. In 1871 the State taxes were reduced to 52 cents on the \$100 worth of property; in January, 1874, to  $31\frac{2}{3}$ ; in 1876 to  $29\frac{2}{3}$ ; in 1883 to 25; in 1884 to nothing. This last result was brought about by a sale of the Western North Carolina Railroad, and the sum paid was placed in the treasury, for the relief of the tax-payer. The taxes levied for school purposes in 1883 were  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents on the \$100 valuation of property, and  $37\frac{1}{2}$  on the poll. To accomplish these results, the most rigid economy was practiced, the number of officers was cut down, all salaries were reduced to sums many of which are now doubtless too low, and all appropriations for ordinary expenses of the government were confined within the limit of what was strictly necessary. Such a showing of progress and economy on the part of the State in the last 14 years must afford the highest gratification to every true North Carolinian, and at the same time is most honorable to the Legislature and executive officers who aided in its accomplishment. But as we stand out to-day on this advanced ground, we should not forget that there is yet much to accomplish to place our State in that high position which she is entitled to hold and must hold, by virtue of her developed and undeveloped resources, among the most prosperous States of the Union. There is much in the past to encourage us notwithstanding our reverses and difficulties, and I hope and believe that he who shall stand where I now stand eight years from to-day to be inaugurated as your Chief Magistrate, will be able to say that our advance in that time has been equal to, if not greater than that made in the eight years past.

— We cannot afford to recede or stand still. The world moves and we must move with it. "Intelligence is the life of liberty," and republican institutions cannot be maintained without it. We must have more and better schools, and these should be taught at least six months in the year. We must add to the number and qualifications of our teachers. We must have more money. The State Constitution provides for